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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT City Plan of Elblag

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Background

2. "Elblag (German: Elbing, East Prussia), a district town in Gdansk county, has a population of around 62,000 inhabitants as against the pre-World War II figure of 86,000. During World War II approximately 60% of the town was destroyed, and the center of the town was badly damaged. After World War II the partly destroyed plants were almost completely dismantled by the Soviet authorities. The harbor installations as well as the floating docks were dismantled and were taken to the USSR.

Reconstruction

3. "Reconstruction in Elblag after World War II was directed primarily at its industry. Rebuilding of the industrial area was started as late as 1952. According to late published data, the residential district around First Maja Street is already nearing completion, comparable to that of the first part of the Old Town around Wigilijna Street. Note: It is not clear whether the residential district is similar in reconstruction pattern to the Old Town or whether the two areas are comparable in the stage of reconstruction.

4. "The leading pre-World War II industrial plant, Schichau-Werft, (of which Schichau shipyard is a part) which is dispersed all over the town is again in operation, the only difference being that now it is divided into various enterprises. The largest goes under the name of Zaklady Mechaniczne im. K. Swierczewskiego which leads in the production of turbines in Poland.

Military Divisions in Elblag

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5. "The strong military training center in Elblag which was established before World War II along with the resurrection of the German Army has not only been restored but has even been strengthened. One armored division is stationed in Elblag and in addition there is a school for infantry officers and a specialization school for Signal, Antiaircraft and Armored NCOs. The airfield located in the southern outskirts of the town which had been expanded during World War II is still in operation as the training center for pilots of the Polish Air Force.

6. "Elblag, which before World War II was a German town in East Prussia, was a Polish harbor town up to the end of the 18th century. In Elblag the first Polish dockyards were operated in the middle ages.

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